

WE CLAIM:

1. A pump system comprising

an aircraft having an underside,

a tank onboard the aircraft for containing fluid,

5 a substantially rigid tube member, connected to the aircraft in communication with the tank, wherein the tube member is movable to a downward orientation for accessing a fluid source below the aircraft, and

wherein the tube member is directed rearward relative to the aircraft when the tube member is in the downward orientation.

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2. A method of loading water onto an aircraft comprising

pumping fluid from a source through a tube member onto a tank on an aircraft, while the aircraft moves over the source, and

15 directing the tube member rearward relative to the aircraft's direction of travel

3. A method of loading water onto an aircraft comprising  
pumping fluid from a source through a tube member onto a tank on an aircraft,  
while the aircraft moves over the source,  
directing the tube member rearward relative to the aircraft's direction of travel,  
5 and  
further comprising the step of directing the tube member rearward relative to the  
aircraft's direction of travel.

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4. A fluid conduit device for an aircraft, comprising  
a tube member having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being  
configured for connection to an aircraft in communication with an onboard tank, the  
distal end having a fluid inlet configured to be entirely submerged in a fluid source while  
15 the aircraft flies translationally over the fluid source.